Yawelmani Yokuts

Yawelmani Yokuts (also spelled **Yowlumne** and **Yauelmani**) is an endangered dialect of Southern Valley Yokuts historically spoken by the Yokuts living along the Kern River north of Kern Lake in the Central Valley of California.[1] Today, most Yawelmani speakers live on or near the Tule River Reservation.[2]

Yawelmani	
Yowlumne	
Yaw'lamnin ṭeexil	
cil-en-na-mam-hi hitsii see I you shall to-morrow. Yawelmani sentence documented by A. L. Kroeber	
Native to	California
Native speakers	unknown 20–25 fluent and semispeakers (Golla 2007)
Language family	Yok-Utian ▪ Yokuts ▪ Valley Yokuts ▪ Southern Valley ▪ **Yawelmani**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–

Historical distribution of Yawelmani

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Name

Academic sources frequently use the name "Yawelmani" while referring to the language, though tribe members more often use the name "Yowlumne."[2]

When referencing their language, modern speakers of Yawelmani use the terms "inyana" (Indian), and "yaw'lamnin ṭeexil" (speech of the Yowlumne).[2]

Phonology

Consonants

Closeup map of historical Yawelmani distribution

		Bilabial	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	**plain**	p /p/	t /t/	ṭ /ʈ/		k /k/	ʼ /ʔ/
	aspirated	ph /pʰ/	th /tʰ/	ṭh /ʈʰ/		kh /kʰ/	
	ejective	pʼ /pʼ/	tʼ /tʼ/	ṭʼ /ʈʼ/		kʼ /kʼ/	
Affricate	**plain**		c /t͡s/		č /t͡ʃ/		
	aspirated		ch /t͡sʰ/		čh /t͡ʃʰ/		
	ejective		cʼ /t͡sʼ/		čʼ /t͡ʃʼ/		
Fricative			s /s/	ṣ /ʂ/		x /x/	h /h/
Nasal	**plain**	m /m/	n /n/				
	glottalized	mʼ /mˀ/	nʼ /nˀ/				
Approximant	**plain**	w /w/	l /l/		y /j/		
	glottalized	wʼ /wˀ/	lʼ /lˀ/		yʼ /jˀ/		

Vowels

Yawelmani has 8 vowel phonemes:

	Unrounded		Rounded	
	short	**long**	**short**	**long**
High	i	iː	u	uː
Non-high	a	aː	ɔ	ɔː

- There are 4 short-long vowel pairs.
- Short high vowels may become more centralized in fast speech: /i/ → [ɪ], /u/ → [ʊ].
- Long high vowels are almost always lower than their short counterparts: /iː/ → [ɛː], /uː/ → [ɔː].
- All long vowels may be shortened by a phonological process. Thus, a single long vowel has two different phonetic realizations:

- /iː/ → [ɛ, ɛː],
- /aː/ → [a, aː],
- /uː/ → [ɔ, ɔː],
- /ɔː/ → [ɔ, ɔː].

- Note that the high long vowel /uː/ is usually pronounced the same as /ɔ/ and /ɔː/.

As can be seen, Yawelmani vowels have a number of different realizations (phones) which are summarized below:

	Front		**Back**	
	short	**long**	**short**	**long**
High	i		u	
Near-high	ɪ		ʊ	
Mid	ɛ	ɛː	ɔ	ɔː
Low			a	aː

Syllable & phonotactics

The Yawelmani syllables can be either a consonant-vowel sequence (CV), such as *deeyi-* 'lead', or a consonant-vowel-consonant sequence (CVC), such as *xata-* 'eat'. Thus the generalized syllable is the following:

CV(C)

Word roots are bisyllabic and have either one of two shapes:

- CV.CV
- CV.CVC

Phonological processes

Vowel shortening

When long vowels are in closed syllables, they are shortened:

/pʼa.xaː.tʼit/	→	[pʼaxaːtʼit]	*páxaaṫit*	'mourn (passive aorist)'	(/aː/ remains long)
/pʼa.xaːtʼ.hin/	→	[pʼaxatʼhin]	*páxaṫhin*	'mourn (aorist)'	(/aː/ is shortened)
/tsʼu.juː.hun/	→	[tsʼujɔːhun]	*ćuyoohun*	'urinate (aorist)'	(/uː/ remains long)
/tsʼu.juːt/	→	[tsʼujɔt]	*ćuyot*	'urinate (passive aorist)'	(/uː/ is shortened)

Vowel harmony

Yawelmani has suffixes that contain either an underspecified high vowel /I/ or an underspecified non-high vowel /A/.

- Underspecified /I/ will appear as /u/ following the high rounded vowel /u/ and as /i/ following all other vowels /i, a, ɔ/:

/-hIn/		*-hun*/*-hin*	(aorist suffix)
/muƚhIn/	→ [muƚhun]	*muƚhun*	'swear (aorist)'
/gij'hIn/	→ [gij'hin]	*giýhin*	'touch (aorist)'
/gɔphIn/	→ [gɔphin]	*gophin*	'take care of infant (aorist)'
/xathIn/	→ [xathin]	*xathin*	'eat (aorist)'

- Underspecified /A/ will appear as /ɔ/ following the non-high rounded vowel /ɔ/ and as /a/ following all other vowels /i, u, a/:

/-tAw/		*-tow*/*-taw*	(nondirective gerundial suffix)
/gɔptAw/	→ [gɔptɔw]	*goptow*	'take care of infant (nondir. ger.)'
/gij'tAw/	→ [gij'taw]	*giýtaw*	'touch (nondir. ger.)'
/muƚtAw/	→ [muƚtaw]	*muƚtaw*	'swear (nondir. ger.)'
/xattAw/	→ [xatːaw]	*xattaw*	'eat (nondir. ger.)'

Vowel epenthesis

Yawelmani adds vowels to stems, when suffixes with an initial consonant are affixed to word with two final consonants in order to avoid a triple-consonant-cluster.

Grammar

Case system

Yawelmani is a primary object language.[2]

A. L. Krober documented the language's case system in his 1907 paper *The Yokuts language of south central California*.[3]

Case suffixes (per Kroeber)

Objective	Noun	-a (i)
	Demonstrative	-n, -in
	(plural), Pronoun	-wa
Possessive		-in
Instrumental		ni
Locative		u
Ablative		nit

Speakers

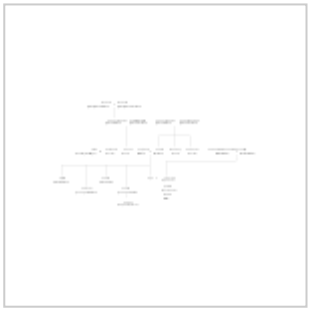
A 2011 estimate by Victor Golla placed the number of fluent and semi-fluent Yawelmani speakers at "up to twenty-five"[4]

Revitalization efforts

In 1993, the Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program piloted a series of language programs that included Yawelmani. The program was reportedly effective in teaching conversational Yawelmani to tribal members without prior knowledge and increasing language use among elders.[5]

Selected vocabulary

Yawelmani anatomy



Yawelmani kinship terms

References

1. Whistler, Kenneth W.; Golla, Victor (1986). "Proto-Yokuts Reconsidered". *International Journal of American Linguistics*. **52** (4): 317–358. doi:10.1086/466028 (https://doi.org/10.1086%2F466028). ISSN 0020-7071 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0020-7071). JSTOR 1265536 (https://www.jstor.org/stable/1265536).
2. Weigel, William (2005). "Yowlumne in the Twentieth Century" (https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7k2985g3).
3. Kroeber, A. L. (1907). "he Yokuts language of south central California" (http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/anthpubs/ucb/text/ucp002-007.pdf) (PDF). *University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnography*: 281.
4. Golla, Victor (2011-08-02). *California Indian Languages* (https://books.google.com/?id=B_yqdSE1F8wC&pg=PA154&lpg=PA154&dq=yawelmani+speakers#v=onepage&q=yawelmani%20speakers&f=false). University of California Press. ISBN 9780520266674.
5. "Survival of Endangered Languages: The California Master-Apprentice Program". *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*. **123** (1): 177–191. 2009. doi:10.1515/ijsl.1997.123.177 (https://doi.org/10.1515%2Fijsl.1997.123.177). ISSN 1613-3668 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/1613-3668).

External links

- English/Yowlumne dictionary (http://tulerivertribe-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ENGLISH-YOWLUMNI-DICTIONARY-Reduced.pdf)
- Yowlum'nen Trexul: Yowlumne phrase and lesson book (http://cla.berkeley.edu/item.php?bndlid=2552)

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